

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00696 030607Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 SSM-03 /080 W  
-----031234Z 033548 /12/14

R 281429Z JAN 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR MRN  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4643  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 0696 VICE 0695

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IS  
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND  
RELIGION HAIM ZADOK

1. CHARGE AND EMBOFF MET JAN 28 WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE  
HAIM ZADOK. ZADOK, WHO WAS RECENTLY ALSO ASSIGNED THE  
MINISTRY OF RELIGION PORTFOLIO, IS A LEADING FIGURE  
IN THE MAPAI FACTION OF THE LABOR PARTY AND IS ONE OF  
PRIME MVMISTER RABIN'S INTIMATE ADVISORS. THUS FAR,  
HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED HIS CHOICE IN  
THE RABIN-PERES CONTEST.

2. ZADOK EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT RABIN WOULD BEAT  
PERES, SAYING THAT THE INCUMBENT HAS CERTAIN BUILT-IN  
ADVANTAGES. NONETHELESS, THERE IS CERTAINLY  
DISSATISFACTION WITH RABIN'S PERFORMANCE ON DOMESTIC  
ISSUES--OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE NO CONTEST WITH PERES.

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 00696 030607Z

ZADOK INDICATED THAT HIS OWN PREFERENCE IS RABIN.

3. HE NOTED THAT THE LABOR PARTY'S PREPARATORY  
COMMITTEE HAS DESIGNATED THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AS THE  
PROPER FORUM TO CHOOSE LABOR'S TOP SPOT, BUT HE COULD NOT  
ENTIRELY DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT WOULD BE THE  
CONVENTION (SEPTTEL). THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HOWEVER,

WAS THE "CONSTITUTIONAL" FORUM FOR THIS TASK. (HE THEORIZED A SITUATION WHERE OTHERWISE THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MIGHT WISH TO REMOVE AN INCUMBENT PRIME MINISTER AND FIND THAT THE LATTER WOULD INSIST THAT HE WAS ANSWERABLE ONLY TO THE BODY THAT PUT HIM AT THE TOP OF THE LIST, I.E., THE CONVENTION.)

4. ZADOK THOUGHT THAT FOREIGN POLICY WOULD EDGE OUT DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AS THE MAIN CAMPAIGN ISSUE DESPITE THE OPPOSITION'S EFFORTS TO THE CONTRARY. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE LIKUD COULD NOT SURVIVE ANOTHER DEFEAT AND EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE NEXT COALITION GOVERNMENT COULD WELL INCLUDE THE LIBERAL PARTY (ONE OF THE LIKUD'S CONSTITUTENT PARTIES) AND YADIN'S DMC (WHICH HE ESTIMATED WOULD WIN TWELVE SEATS IN THE NEXT KNESSET) WITH THE ALIGNMENT.

5. COMMENT: ZADOK IS PROBABLY RIGHT IN STATING THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL CHOOSE LABOR'S STANDARD-BEARER, BUT AS A SUPPORTER OF RABIN, HIS ESTIMATE MAY OWE SOMETHING TO HIS BIAS. RABIN WOULD PREFER THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE ARENA FOR HIS BATTLE WITH PERES.  
DUNNIGAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, PARTY LEADERS, PARTY FACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND RELIGION HAIM ZADOK  
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